REMARKS

Claims 1-30 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness; claims 31-36 stand rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102; claims 7-9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and claims 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 relating to subject matter. Claims 7-9, 13 and 27 are amended. Claims 26 and 29-36 are cancelled without prejudice. Enclosed herewith are Formal Drawings submitted on Sheets 1-7 as required, and a copy of previously submitted Power of Attorney and change of correspondence address forms. Please acknowledge the POA and change the attorney docket number to 1-002.

As described, Applicants' device advantageously has two parts: (1) a cartridge that contains all of the electronics (ie, silicon) of a amusement system, while its (2) player is simply electrical in nature, i.e., switches, batteries, speaker, etc. The system architecture as claimed, "where the cartridge includes memory, a processing system, programming executable by the processing system to produce electrical signals representative of sound from the data representative of sound, and at least one connector configured to releasably connect the cartridge to a player" and with the "player to receive electrical signals representative of sound from the cartridge and to produce sound ... where the player includes controls configured to trigger the cartridge to produce electrical signals representative of sound and to transmit those signals to the transducer to produce sound vibrations, but where the player is devoid of a processor to process the electrical signals received from the cartridge" (emphasis added) is totally unlike any system produced to date and neither anticipated nor suggested by the prior art.

With Applicant's architecture as a backdrop, Ono Clearly does not separate the electrical from electronic components as described and claimed by Applicants. Further Layson, Ozawa, Jigour, Scott, Lebensfeld, May nor any other prior art of record describes such separation of electrical from electronic, in which control portion (configured with battery and speaker) to trigger via connector are separated out from the processor/ memory storage/ cartridge portion (to combine to produce electrical signals representative of sound and to transmit those signals to the transducer to produce sound).

The prior art systems quite to the contrary use a separate memory cards or cartridges are inspired by the motifs of the conventional cassette/ CD player architectures or use cradle adapters that recharge and connect the system to host data sources similar to a Palm Pilot/ PDA – systems with user controls in and of themselves. As described in the specification Applicants' novel system architecture provides key benefits over the prior art, including reducing the number contacts required to make connections, reducing the data rate over these connections as much lower, meaning simpler interconnections, minimizing the size and number of circuit boards required thus making equivalent systems smaller and less complex.

Applicants' system is an alternative to existing cassette players, compact disc players, and other such items in that it allows a user to conveniently produce sound, using a cartridge that stores, processes, and also controls data representative of sound and/or images,etc. The player provides the interface, annunciation and transduction of sound and/or images. The cartridge includes a computer integrated circuit or chip that stores and transmits signals from which sound and/or images may be produced. For example, the cartridge includes memory, data stored in the memory, a processing system, programming executable by the processing system, and at least one connector to releasably connect the cartridge to the player. The cartridge may include a single chip or integrated circuit, with the memory, processing, and other functions all performed by the chip mounted on a printed circuit board.

Applicants' player, as described in contrast to the prior art, is essentially a bridge configured to receive and connect to the cartridge, to receive electrical signals from the cartridge, and to produce sound vibrations and/or visual images from the signals. The player includes a transducer to produce the sound vibrations, a battery or other power supply, and controls to trigger the cartridge to produce and transmit electrical signals representative of sound. The player includes only those components necessary to produce sound vibrations and/or images from the signals received from a cartridge, a battery, and associated, associated input or output components. The player of the present described embodiment does not include any processor, memory, or other similar items

because those items are resident on the cartridge. Expressed differently, the player includes only electrical components such as switches, a speaker and a battery, while the cartridge includes electronic components such as the microprocessor, analog-to-digital converter, and memory. The cartridge is essentially a single chip. One use of the sound producing system is to play popular music easily and inexpensively.

If the Examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant has placed the case in condition for reconsideration and respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 1-25, 27-28 and 37.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Drawings:

Formal Drawings are hereby submitted on Sheets 1-7.